

FILTER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING FILTERS

Patent number: WO9411083

Publication date: 1994-05-26

Inventor: BILSKI GERARD WALTER; COTE EDMOND HECTOR JR; HARTZELL STEVEN ARTHUR; PROBASCO CHARLES ALLEN; QUIST STEVEN WAGSTAFF

Applicant: ALLIED SIGNAL INC (US)

Classification:

- **international:** B01D27/00; B29C65/78; B01D27/00; B29C65/78;
(IPC1-7): B01D27/00; B29C35/02

- **europen:** B01D27/00B; B29C65/78M6B

Application number: WO1993US10818 19931109

Priority number(s): US19920974649 19921110

Also published as:

EP0668790 (A1)
US5698059 (A1)
EP0668790 (A4)

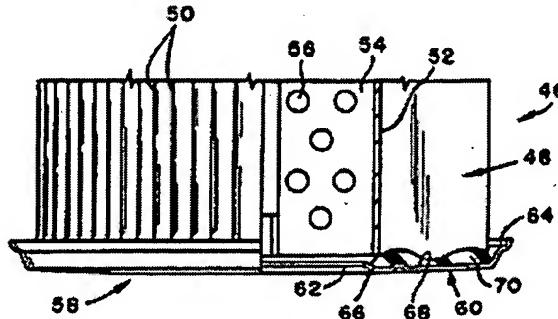
Cited documents:

US4664801
GB2048109
WO8800135
FR2514849
DE4209159
more >

[Report a data error here](#)

Abstract of WO9411083

A filter element (14) is assembled by first fixturing the parts together so that the assembly may be manipulated by automated assembly equipment before the end cap (58) sealant (70, 75) is fully cured in an oven which is off-line from the automated assembly equipment. In one embodiment, a Plastisol sealant (70) is used, which is "kiss-gelled" by rapidly increasing the temperature of the sealant (70) for a few seconds to cure the sealant (70) sufficiently to permit the assembly to be handled but without fully curing the sealant (70). The end cap (58) on the other end of the assembly is then installed and kiss-gelled before the completed (but uncured) assembly is transferred to a curing oven where the Plastisol at both ends of the assembly is fully cured at the same time. In another embodiment of the invention, a small bead or band of an ultravioletly cured polymer sealant (75) is dispensed against adjacent the centertube (26) of the assembly and the ends of the inner tips (52) of the pleats, and a band of conventional Plastisol sealant (70) is dispensed on the rest of the end cap (58). The ultravioletly cured polymer is then cured by ultraviolet light to permit the partially completed assembly to be inverted and a similar end cap (58) installed on the opposite end, before the completed (but uncured) assembly is transferred to an off-line curing oven where the Plastisol is fully cured.



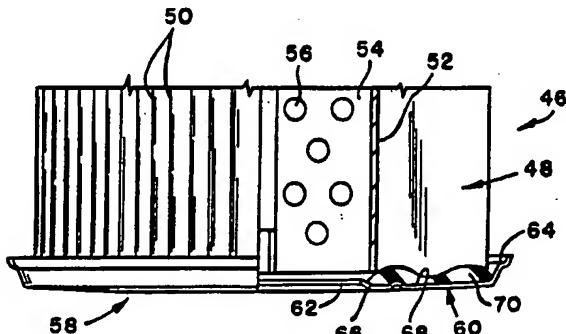
Data supplied from the esp@cenet database - Worldwide



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5 : B01D 27/00, B29C 35/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 94/11083 (43) International Publication Date: 26 May 1994 (26.05.94)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US93/10818		(74) Agent: CRISS, Roger, H.; Law Department (C.A. McNally), 101 Columbia Road., P.O. Box 2245, Morristown, NJ 07962-2245 (US).
(22) International Filing Date: 9 November 1993 (09.11.93)		
(30) Priority data: 974,649 10 November 1992 (10.11.92) US		(81) Designated States: JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).
(71) Applicant: ALLIED-SIGNAL INC. [US/US]; 101 Columbia Road, P.O. Box 2245, Morristwon, NJ 07962-2245 (US).		Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(72) Inventors: BILSKI, Gerard, Walter ; 38 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02805 (US). COTE, Edmond, Hector, Jr. ; 210 Franklin Street, Warren, RI 02885 (US). HARTZELL, Steven, Arthur ; 2449 Wagner Road, Greenville, OH 45331 (US). PROBASCO, Charles, Allen ; 5132 Paint Road, New Paris, OH 45347 (US). QUIST, Steven, Wagstaff ; 2272 East Zermatt Circle, Sandy, UT 84093 (US).		

(54) Title: FILTER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING FILTERS



(57) Abstract

A filter element (14) is assembled by first fixturing the parts together so that the assembly may be manipulated by automated assembly equipment before the end cap (58) sealant (70, 75) is fully cured in an oven which is off-line from the automated assembly equipment. In one embodiment, a Platisol sealant (70) is used, which is "kiss-gelled" by rapidly increasing the temperature of the sealant (70) for a few seconds to cure the sealant (70) sufficiently to permit the assembly to be handled but without fully curing the sealant (70). The end cap (58) on the other end of the assembly is then installed and kiss-gelled before the completed (but uncured) assembly is transferred to a curing oven where the Platisol at both ends of the assembly is fully cured at the same time. In another embodiment of the invention, a small bead or band of an ultravioletly cured polymer sealant (75) is dispensed against adjacent the center tube (26) of the assembly and the ends of the inner tips (52) of the pleats, and a band of conventional Platisol sealant (70) is dispensed on the rest of the end cap (58). The ultravioletly cured polymer is then cured by ultraviolet light to permit the partially completed assembly to be inverted and a similar end cap (58) installed on the opposite end, before the completed (but uncured) assembly is transferred to an off-line curing oven where the Platisol is fully cured.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AT	Austria	CB	United Kingdom	MR	Mauritania
AU	Australia	GE	Georgia	MW	Malawi
BB	Barbados	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BE	Belgium	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BF	Burkina Faso	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BC	Bulgaria	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BJ	Benin	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BR	Brazil	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BY	Belarus	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
CA	Canada	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CF	Central African Republic	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CG	Congo	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CH	Switzerland	KZ	Kazakhstan	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LI	Liechtenstein	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LK	Sri Lanka	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CS	Czechoslovakia	LV	Latvia	TC	Togo
CZ	Czech Republic	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DE	Germany	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DK	Denmark	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	US	United States of America
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	UZ	Uzbekistan
FR	France			VN	Viet Nam
GA	Gabon				

FILTER AND METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING FILTERS

This invention relates to liquid filters for filtering the lubricating oil of an internal combustion engine, but it may also be applicable to other types of filters, such as fuel filters and filters used for filtering the combustion air of an internal combustion engine.

Liquid filters for filtering lubricating oil of an internal combustion engine consist of a metal housing with a filter element within the housing. The filter element commonly consists of a circumferentially extending cylindrical array of pleated filter paper. Present methods of manufacturing such filter elements require a good deal of hand labor. One end of the array must be embedded in Plastisol sealant which is carried on a substantially flat end disc (usually made of paper, but sometimes made of metal). The element must then be manually inverted and another end disc carrying Plastisol sealant must be installed on the opposite end of the array. Since the Plastisol sealant has not been cured and is still in its viscous state, the assembly must be carefully handled in installing the end disc and sealant, inverting the filter element, and in transferring the assembled filter element with the uncured Plastisol sealant into a curing oven. Although automation equipment is available to automatically perform the various steps that have been performed manually, the results were not satisfactory because the machines cannot handle the partially completed element to prevent damage to a significant percentage of the elements being manufactured due to the uncured sealant.

It has been proposed, in order to increase automation and line speeds, to use ultravioletly cured sealant, which cures much more rapidly than the prior art Plastisol sealant and therefore can be cured as each end disc is assembled on the filter element. This method of manufacturing filters using such ultravioletly cured sealant is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,028,330. However, ultravioletly cured sealant is substantially more expensive than common Plastisol sealants. Accordingly, while it is

desirable to automate filter element assembly lines to eliminate hand labor, it is also desirable to either use the inexpensive prior art Plastisol sealants exclusively, or to use only a minimal amount of the expensive ultravioletly 5 cured sealants.

The present invention relates to an filter element and assembly method for automatic manufacture of such elements, in which only a minimal amount of ultraviolet sealant is used, in which a Plastisol sealant is used while 10 still being able to use automated assembly equipment.

These and other advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

15 Figure 1 is a cross-sectional view of an oil filter assembly incorporating a liquid filter made according to the teachings of the prior art;

Figure 2 is a view, partly in section, of a filter element, according to the present invention, used in the 20 liquid filter assembly of Figure 1 which uses a Plastisol sealant;

Figure 3 is a view similar to Figure 2, but illustrating a filter element in which both ultravioletly 25 cured sealants and Plastisol sealants are used; and

Figure 4 is a diagrammatic illustration of the dial machines used in the process according to the present invention for manufacturing the filter elements illustrated in Figures 2-3.

Referring now to the drawings, a conventional 30 spin-on engine lubricating oil filter is illustrated at 10 in Figure 1. The filter 10 includes a metal can-shaped housing 12 which defines a cavity therein which receives a filter element generally indicated by the numeral 14. The open end of the metal housing 12 is closed by a tapping 35 plate 16. Tapping plate 16 includes a threaded outlet opening 18, which is adapted to be threaded on a mounting stud (not shown) on a mounting surface of the vehicle engine. Tapping plate 16 further includes circumferentially spaced inlet openings 20 which permit lubricating oil to

- 3 -

communicate into an inlet chamber 22 defined between the housing 12 and the outer tips of a conventional cylindrical array of pleated filter paper 24. Inward collapse of the pleated paper array 24 is resisted by a metallic perforated 5 centertube 26 which circumscribes the inner tips of the pleats comprising the array 24. The centertube 26 is substantially cylindrical and defines an outlet chamber communicating with the outlet opening 18. The perforations of the centertube are illustrated as at 28. A conventional 10 anti-drainback valve 30, which prevents lubricating oil from draining out of the chamber 22 back through the inlet openings 16 when the engine is turned off, and a bypass valve generally indicated by the numeral 32, which permits lubricating oil to bypass around the filter element 14 when 15 the pressure across the element 14 reaches an excessive level, is also provided.

The lower end, (viewing Figure 1) of the array 24 is sealed by a circumferentially extending band of Plastisol generally indicated by the numeral 34 which is carried on a 20 substantially flat, annular, end cap 36. The outer periphery of end cap 36 engages the wall of the housing 12 to properly orient the filter element 14 within the housing 12. The upper end of the array 24 is sealed by Plastisol generally indicated by the numeral 38 which is dispensed 25 upon an upper end cap 40 which, like the lower end cap 36, is an annular, substantially flat, paper which extends from the centertube 28 radially outwardly across the top of the array 24. The top of the centertube 26 is sealed by a centertube cap 42 of conventional design which incorporates 30 a leaf spring 44 which engages the end of the housing 12, thereby loading the filter element downwardly, viewing the Figure.

Referring now to Figure 2, a filter element 46 is made according to the invention and replaces the filter 35 element 14 of Figure 1. Filter element 46, as does filter element 14, consists of a circumferentially extending, cylindrical array of radially tapering pleats generally indicated at 48. Each of the pleats tapers radially from an outer tip 50 to corresponding inner tips 52. A metallic

- 4 -

centertube 54 includes perforations as at 56 and extends circumferentially about the inner tubes 52 and resists inward collapse of the array 48.

The ends of the array 48 are sealed by an end cap assembly indicated by the numeral 58. End cap assembly 58 consists of a resilient, substantially rigid annular cup-shaped member generally indicated by the numeral 60. The cup-shaped member 60 circumscribes an opening 62 which is coaxial with the centertube 52. The cup-shaped member 60 extends between a circumferentially extending, axially projecting outer lip 64 and a circumferentially extending, axially tapering inner lip 66. Lips 64, 66 cooperate with one another to define a circumferentially extending trough 68 therebetween. A circumferentially extending band of sealant material, generally indicated by the numeral 70, is dispensed into the trough 68. The sealant material 70 is a conventional Plastisol compound discussed hereinabove. The trough 68 is wide enough to receive the entire width of the array 48 and also wide enough to receive the centertube, such that the sealing compound 70 seals the end of the pleats and also seals the centertube against the end of the pleats and against the end cap assembly 58.

The cup-shaped member 60 consists of a randomly distributed non-woven array of fibers and a binder resin and is manufactured by conventional paper making process well known to those skilled in the art. The bulk of the fibers, to minimize cost, are normally cellulose fibers, but at least some of the fibers are desirably synthetic fibers, such as polyester fibers, or inorganic fibers, such as fiberglass fibers, in order to give tensile and flex fatigue strength and to also give resiliency and formability. It is also necessary to use a binder resin such as a phenolic, latex, acrylic, epoxy, or polyvinyl alcohol. A typical material would comprise from 50-90% cellulose fibers, 5-20% synthetic fibers, with the remainder resin. The resin provides flexibility to the article, to permit the trough to be formed by molding or other forming processes. If a Plastisol seal is to be used, the fiber mixture and resin can be chosen to minimize cost while retaining a sufficient

quantity of synthetic and/or inorganic fibers to maintain the necessary strength and sufficient quantity of resin to assure proper moldability.

According to the invention, as will hereinafter be described, when the conventional filter element as illustrated in Figure 1 is manufactured or when the filter element using a Plastisol sealant is dispensed into a cup-shaped trough in the end disc as illustrated in Figure 2, the sealant is "kiss gelled" by exposing the sealant briefly to a high temperature to gel the sealant before the element is inverted and the end cap on the opposite end is installed. After the end cap on the opposite end is installed, the sealant at the other end of the element is again "kiss gelled" by exposing the sealant to a high temperature for a brief time period to gel the sealant. The gelled sealant permits the assembly to be handled by automated assembly equipment without damage before the Plastisol is fully cured in an off-line oven.

Referring now to Figure 3, elements substantially the same as those in the embodiment of Figure 2 retain the same reference numeral. The filter element 71 of Figure 3 is substantially the same as that of Figure 2. However, a axially projecting, circumferentially extending ridge 72 projects into the trough 68 and cooperates with inner lip 66 to define a portion 74 of the trough in which a band or bead 75 of quick curing sealant, such as a photo-initiated polymer, is laid. The photo-initiated polymer may be Ciba Gygi compound XMH-8744. The ridge 72 also cooperates with outer lip 64 to define another portion 76 therebetween in which a band of heat-cured sealant, such as common Plastisol sealant 70, is laid down. After the end of the array is installed into the trough, the quick-cured sealant 75 is cured by ultraviolet light while the heat cured sealant received in portion 76 remains uncured. The curing of the quick-cured sealant fixtures the assembly so that it may be handled without damage as will hereinafter be described. The element is, accordingly, then inverted and the other end cap is similarly installed on the opposite end of the array and the quick-curing sealant cured before the completed

- 6 -

assembly is transferred into an oven to cure the heat-cured sealant on both ends of the assembly simultaneously.

It is important, of course, in curing the quick-cured sealant that the end cap be transparent to ultraviolet light. It is accordingly important that the resin chosen transmits ultraviolet light in order to cure the sealant. Each resin transmits, absorbs, and reflects light of different frequencies. It has been found that polyvinyl alcohol resin transmits a substantially greater percentage of ultraviolet wave lengths and is the preferred resin. It is also necessary to use relatively fewer fibers in the mixture, hence the fibers tend to reflect or absorb light, and to use a correspondingly higher percentage of polyvinyl alcohol resin, which transmits light.

15 Referring now to Figure 4, the method of installing the end caps on the cartridge will now be described in detail. A three-dial indexing dial machine illustrated generally at 78 includes a pair of trays carrying dials 80, 82 which are indexed in the direction of 20 the arrows. Each of the openings in the dials 80, 82 receives a tray 84, if the machine 78 is used to manufacture filter element made pursuant to the teachings of Figure 3 which uses a ultravioletly cured polymer to fixture the assembly. It is important that the trays be made from a 25 material, such as glass, which is transparent to ultraviolet light. A tray is placed in each of the positions 80A-H on dial 80 and 82A-H of dial 82. Dial machine 78 further includes indexing dial 86 from which arms 86A-H extend. Dial 86 is indexed in the direction indicated by the arrow. 30 Fixtures indicated schematically at 88 are mounted on each of the arms 86A-H. The fixtures 88 include clamshell grippers 90 for picking up, raising, lowering, and releasing the filter elements.

Equipment (not shown) is provided at station 80A 35 of dial 80 and at station 82A of dial 82 for dispensing one of the end caps 36 or 58 onto the tray 84 at that station. Station 80B of dial 80 and 82B of dial 82 is equipped with equipment to dispense a band of sealant into the end cap dispensed at station 80A, 82A. If an ultravioletly cured

- 7 -

polymer is to be dispensed into the end cap pursuant to the embodiment of Figure 3, a conventional device for dispensing such polymer is located at station 80C of dial 80 and at 82C of dial 82. The remainder of the stations around the dials 5 80, 82, except for station 80H and 82H, are idle stations where the necessary inspections can be performed. A light source indicated at 92 is disposed beneath the dial at this station. The corresponding clamshell gripper 90 deposits the array into the end cap, as will hereinafter disclaimed, 10 on the upper side of the dial. A light source 94 is provided beneath station 82H of the dial 82.

If Plastisol is to be used exclusively as sealant and the Plastisol is to be "kiss-gelled" a hotplate is disposed beneath the positions 80H and 82H instead of the 15 light source 94 which can be brought up to transmit heat to kiss-gel the Plastisol. The heat is transferred through the end cap. The trays 8 are not used in the "kiss-gel" configuration.

The array 48 is picked up by the fixture 88 on the 20 end of one of the arms of the indexing dials 86 and transferred to station 80H of the dial 80. As described above, an end cap assembly 58 into which the appropriate sealant or sealants has been dispensed at stations 80A-C will have already been indexed into position 80H. The 25 fixture 88 then lowers the array onto the end cap assembly 58, embedding the ends of the pleats into the sealant or sealants. If Plastisol sealant alone is used, the tray is exposed to a hot plate, and if an ultravioletly cured polymer is also used as a sealant, the light source 92 is 30 switched on to cure the polymer. The partially completed assembly is then picked up by the gripper arm, and the dial 80 is then indexed to the next position. The indexing dial 86 is then rotated toward the 86D position, where the fixture 88 is caused to rotate about the axis of the arm by 35 180°, to thereby invert the cartridge so that the end cap assembly 58 that has just been installed on the array is on top and the unfinished end of the cartridge is on the bottom. The indexing dial 86 then indexes to the position illustrated at 86E, where an end cap assembly is installed

- 8 -

in the opposite end of the array and in the same manner that the dial 80 installs an array on the one end of the array. The indexing dial 86 then passes idle station 86F to release station 86G, where the completed filter assembly (except for 5 the uncured Plastisol) is released on a conveyor 95, which transfers the assemblies into a curing oven generally indicated by the numeral 96. The indexing dial arm then passes through idle station 86H before reaching station 86A where another array is picked up and the process is 10 repeated.

CLAIMS

1. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) comprising the steps of forming filtering media into a circumferentially extending array (48) having a pair of ends, dispensing a sealant (70,75) onto an end cap (58), 5 engaging the end cap (58) with the sealant (70,75) to one end of the array (48) such that the sealant (70,75) engages the end of the array (48), characterized in that said method includes the steps of partially curing the sealant (70,75) at said one end of the array (48) for a relatively brief 10 time period to fixture the array (48) and end cap (58), completing assembly of the filter element (14), and thereafter fully curing said sealant (70,75) for a time period greater than the relatively brief time period.

2. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 15 as claimed in Claim 1, further characterized in that said sealant (70,75) is a heat cured sealant (70,75) and said step of partially curing said sealant (70,75) includes the step of exposing said sealant (70,75) to a heat source for said relatively brief time period to gel said sealant and 20 said step of fully curing the sealant (70,75) includes the step of placing said filter element (14) in a curing oven and heating said sealant (70,75) to a predetermined temperature for a predetermined time period.

3. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 25 as claimed in Claim 2, further characterized in that said media comprises a circumferentially extending array (48) of pleated filter paper having radially tapering, axially extending pleats and a supporting perforeate centertube (26) circumscribing the inner circumference of said array (48) to 30 support the inner tips (52) of the pleats, said step of engaging the end cap (58) with the array (48) including the step of engaging the sealant (70,75) with the end of the centertube (26) and the ends of the pleats.

4. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 35 as claimed in Claim 1, further characterized in that said step of completing assembly of the filter element (14) includes the steps of inverting said array (48), dispensing

-10-

a sealant (70,75) onto another end cap (58), engaging the other end cap (58) with the sealant (70,75) to the other end of the array (48) such that the sealant (70,75), and partially curing the sealant (70,75) at said other end of 5 the array (48) for a relatively brief time period to gel said sealant to fixture the array (48) and end cap (58) before fully curing the sealant (70,75) at either end of the array (48).

5. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 10 as claimed in Claim 4, further characterized in that said sealant (70,75) is a heat cured sealant (70,75) and said step of partially curing said sealant (70,75) includes the step of exposing said sealant (70,75) to a heat source for said relatively brief time period and said step of fully 15 curing the sealant (70,75) includes the step of placing said filter element (14) in a curing oven and heating said sealant (70,75) to a predetermined temperature for a predetermined time period.

6. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 20 as claimed in Claim 4, further characterized in that said sealant (70,75) is a heat cured sealant (70) and a second sealant (75) which is cured by exposing the sealant (75) to a light source and said step of curing the sealant (70,75) includes the step of exposing said second sealant (75) to a 25 light source while leaving the heat cured sealant (70) uncured.

7. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 6, further characterized in that said media comprises a circumferentially extending array (48) of 30 pleated filter paper having radially tapering, axially extending pleats and a supporting perforate centertube (26) circumscribing the inner circumference of said array (48) to support the inner tips (52) of the pleats, the end of said pleats having an inner edge adjacent said centertube (26), 35 said method including the steps of applying a band of said second sealant (75) around the end of the centertube (26) and the inner edge of said pleats and a band of said heat cured sealant (70) radially outwardly from said second sealant (75).

-11-

8. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 7, further characterized in that said end cap (58) is a cup-shaped annular member defining a circumferentially extending trough (68) receiving the 5 corresponding end of the media and the centertube (26), said method including the steps of dispensing said bands of said sealant (70,75) in said trough (68).

9. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 7, further characterized in that said 10 end cap (58) is made of a material that transmits light, and said method includes the step of transmitting light through said annular member to cure said second sealant (70,75).

10. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 6, further characterized in that said 15 step of curing said heat cured sealant (70,75) includes the step of placing said filter cartridge in an oven after said second sealant (70,75) on both ends of the filter element (14) has been cured to heat the element to a temperature and for a time sufficient to cure the heat cured sealant 20 (70,75).

11. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 1, further characterized in that said sealant (70,75) is both a heat cured sealant (70,75) and a second sealant (70,75) which is cured by exposing the 25 sealant (70,75) to a light source and said step of partially curing the sealant (70,75) includes the step of exposing said second sealant (70,75) to a light source while leaving the heat cured sealant (70,75) uncured.

12. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) 30 as claimed in Claim 11, further characterized in that said media comprises a circumferentially extending array (48) of pleated filter paper having radially tapering, axially extending pleats and a supporting perforate centertube (26) circumscribing the inner circumference of said array (48) to 35 support the inner tips (52) of the pleats, the end of said pleats having an inner edge adjacent said centertube (26), said method including the steps of applying a band of said second sealant (70,75) around the end of the centertube (26) and the inner edge of said pleats and a band of said heat

-12-

cured sealant (70,75) radially outwardly from said second sealant (70,75).

13. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 11, further characterized in that said 5 end cap (58) is a cup-shaped annular member defining a circumferentially extending trough (68) receiving the corresponding end of the media and the centertube (26), said method including the steps of dispensing said bands of said sealant (70,75) in said trough (68).

10 14. Method of manufacturing a filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 11, further characterized in that said end cap (58) is made of a material that transmits light, and said method includes the step of transmitting light through said annular member to cure said second sealant (70,75).

15 15. Filter element (14) comprising a circumferentially extending filtering media formed into a substantially cylindrical, annular shape having a pair of opposite ends defined by the ends of the cylinder, and a pair of end cap (58)s for closing and sealing corresponding 20 ends of the media, at least one of said end cap (58)s comprising a cup-shaped annular member defining a circumferentially extending trough (68) circumscribing an opening through the end cap (58) receiving the corresponding end of the media, a sealant (70,75) dispensed into said 25 trough (68) and engaging the corresponding end of the media, characterized in that said sealant (70,75) includes two bands of sealant (70,75), one of said bands being a quick curing sealant (75) and the other band being a heat cured sealant (70).

30 16. Filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 15, further characterized in that said quick curing sealant (75) is a photo-initiated polymer which is cured by light.

17. Filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 1, further characterized in that said heat cured sealant (70) 35 is Plastisol.

18. Filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 15, further characterized in that said media comprises a circumferentially extending array (48) of pleated filter paper having radially tapering, axially extending pleats and

-13-

a supporting perforate centertube (26) circumscribing the inner circumference of said array (48) to support the inner tips (52) of the pleats, the end of said pleats having an inner edge adjacent said centertube (26), said band of said 5 quick curing sealant (70,75) extending around the end of the centertube (26) and the inner edge of said pleats and said band of said heat cured sealant (70,75) extending radially outwardly from said second sealant (70,75).

19. Filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 18, 10 further characterized in that said annular member includes a circumferentially extending ridge within said trough (68), said trough (68) having an inner lip circumscribing said opening, said ridge cooperating with said inner lip to define a portion of said trough (68) receiving said quick 15 curing sealant (70,75).

20. Filter element (14) as claimed in Claim 19, further characterized in that said trough (68) includes an outer lip cooperating with the inner lip to define said trough (68), said outer lip cooperating with said ridge to 20 define another portion of said trough (68) therebetween, said band of heat cured sealant (70,75) being disposed in said another portion of the trough (68).

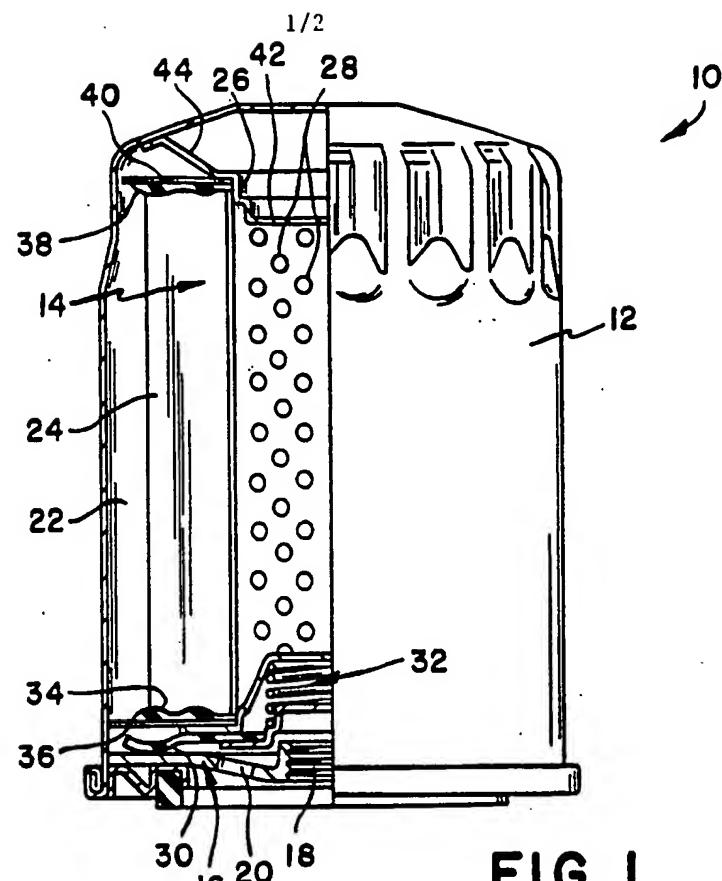


FIG. 1
PRIOR ART

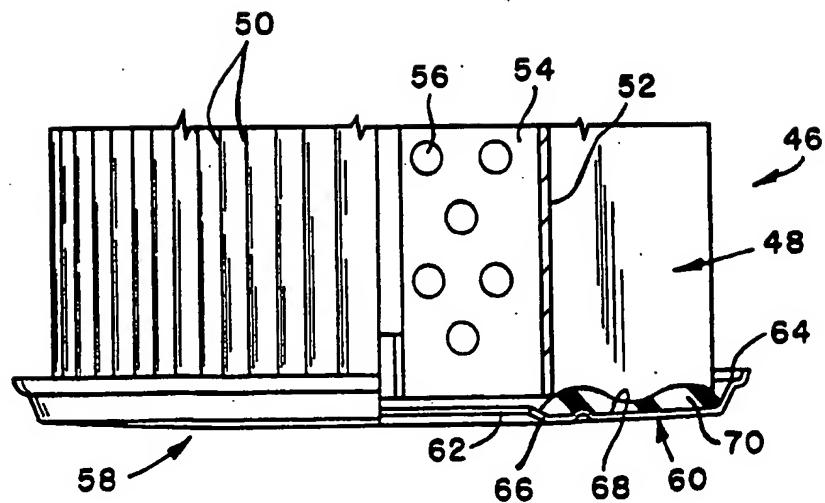


FIG. 2

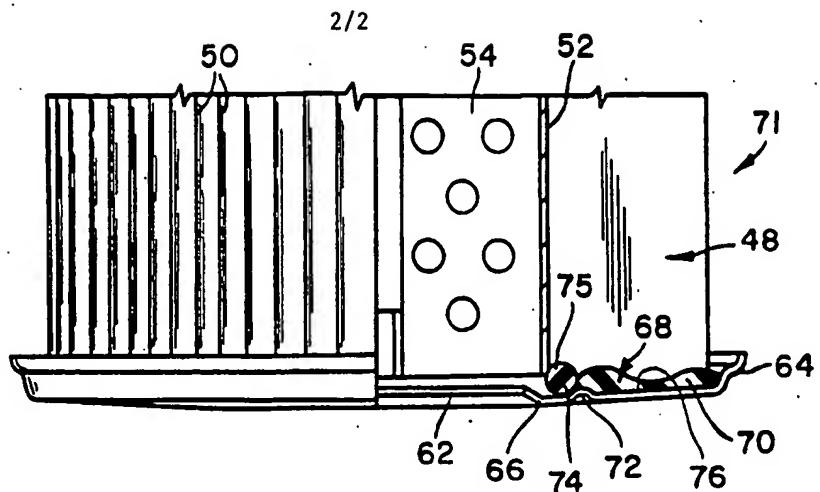


FIG. 3

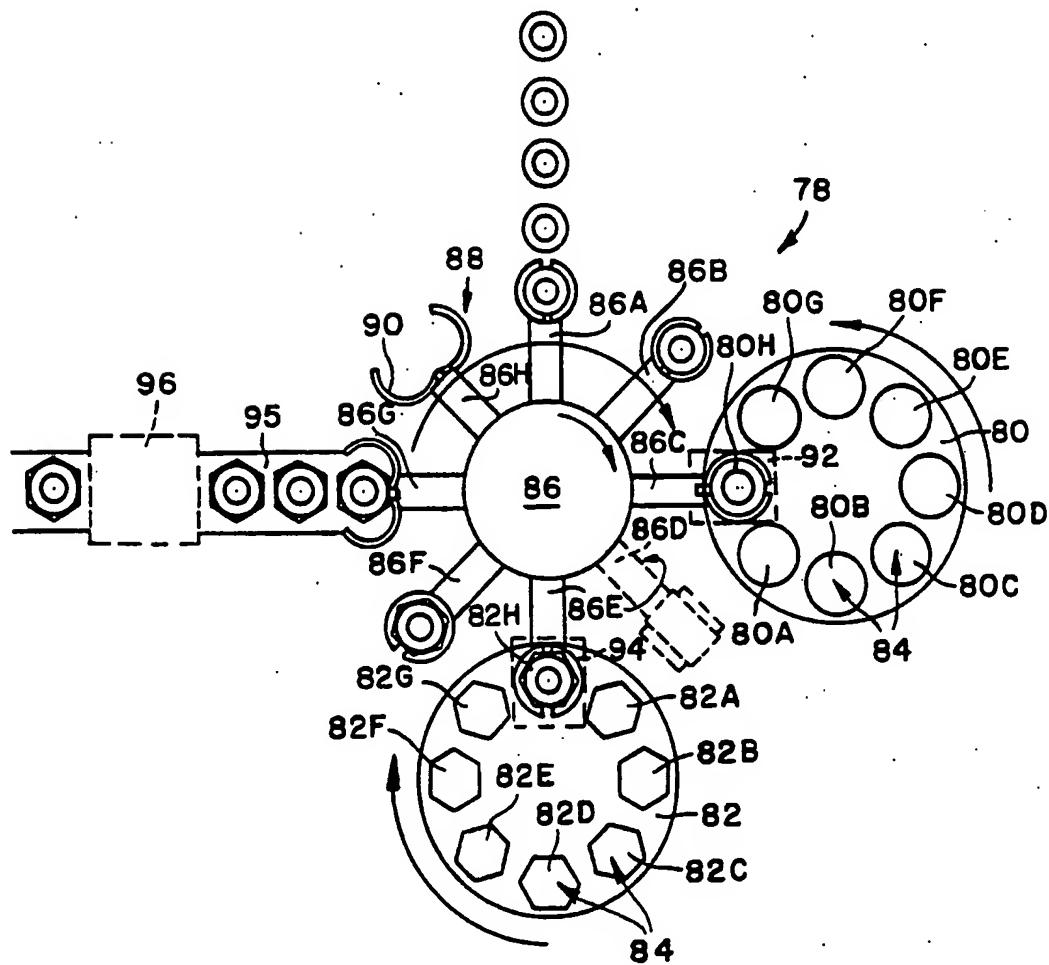


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Appl. No.
PCT/US 93/10818A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 5 B01D27/00 B29C35/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 5 B01D B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US,A,4 664 801 (THOMAS) 12 May 1987 see column 5, line 40 - column 6, line 31 ---	1,2
A	GB,A,2 048 109 (GENERAL MOTORS LTD.) 10 December 1980 see the whole document ---	1-5,15, 17-20
A	WO,A,88 00135 (LOCTITE CORPORATION) 14 January 1988 see page 1, line 23 - page 2, line 24 see page 4, line 13 - page 5, line 32 Page 57 - Statement under Article 19. ---	1-20
A	FR,A,2 514 849 (LOCTITE CORPORATION) 22 April 1983 see page 1, line 1 - page 2, line 24 see page 5, line 34 - page 8, line 4 see example 6 ---	1-20
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *B* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

4 Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

28 February 1994

16.03.94

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Simpson, E

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interv ial Application No
PCT/US 93/10818

C (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE,A,42 09 159 (SUNSTAR GIKEN K.K.) 1	1-20
A	October 1992	
A	see page 1, line 3 - line 56	---
A	WO,A,90 15654 (ALLIED-SIGNAL INC.) 27	3,4,6,7,
A	December 1990	9,11-16
A	cited in the application	
A	see claims 1,2,9-20; figures 1-8	---
A	US,A,2 934 791 (KASTEN) 3 May 1960	1-5,15,
A	see column 2, line 3 - column 3, line 9	-----

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No	
PCT/US 93/10818	

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US-A-4664801	12-05-87	NONE		
GB-A-2048109	10-12-80	NONE		
WO-A-8800135	14-01-88	DE-A- DE-T- EP-A,B JP-T- US-A- US-A-	3785039 3785039 0313574 1500865 4892764 5057348	29-04-93 07-10-93 03-05-89 23-03-89 09-01-90 15-10-91
FR-A-2514849	22-04-83	AU-B- AU-A- DE-A- GB-A,B JP-C- JP-B- JP-A-	557449 7565781 3200659 2111515 1666994 3032593 58104976	24-12-86 31-03-83 21-07-83 06-07-83 29-05-92 13-05-91 22-06-83
DE-A-4209159	01-10-92	JP-A-	4300987	23-10-92
WO-A-9015654	27-12-90	US-A- AU-A- DE-D- EP-A- JP-T-	5028330 5635390 69004428 0477196 4507214	02-07-91 08-01-91 09-12-93 01-04-92 17-12-92
US-A-2934791		NONE		